



SDMS DocID 2075211

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

October 21, 2005

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 3  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029  
Attn: Mr. Harry R. Steinmetz (3HS62)

Re: Safety Light Corporation Site  
Bloomsburg, PA

Dear Mr. Steinmetz:

Columbia University hereby responds to the July 21, 2005 Information Request sent by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") to both our Purchasing Office and our President's Office with regard to the above-referenced Site. We appreciate the Agency's courtesy in extending to October 31, 2005 our time to respond to the Information Request.

We have conducted a thorough search of potentially relevant files in an effort to locate any and all relevant documents that exist for the period 1945 to date. Our search encompassed both the locations referred to in the attachments to EPA's letters, as well as other conceivably relevant locations. One of the buildings referred to in the attachment entitled "Columbia University (Box 6, Low Library)" -- 538 W. 120<sup>th</sup> St., N.Y. 27, N.Y. -- is no longer in existence, having been torn down years ago. Many files and documents from this timeframe are no longer in existence, having been destroyed in the normal course.

In addition to conducting a comprehensive document search, our office of Radiation Safety, in conjunction with our General Counsel's Office and the Department of Environmental Health and Radiation Safety, searched for and interviewed both present and former employees who might have knowledge bearing upon the various informational requests. Based upon all of the information obtained to date from all of the relevant documents that we have been able to locate, and from the knowledgeable witnesses that we have been able to locate:

**Responses to  
Information Requested**

1. Columbia University has no records that substantiate any purchases of Radium "D" Foil (Lead-210), Polonium 210 (Po210), Polonium Berillium (PoBe) or any other radioactive materials or sources from Safety Light Corp., U.S. Radium, Lime Ridge Industries, USR Industries, USR Metals, Metreal, or Isolite during the periods referenced in the Attachments to the Information Request, or at any other time. In addition, none of the knowledgeable past and present employees recalls any such purchases having been made from any of the companies named in the EPA Information Request. The only Radium source that we have confirmed for the Nevis Cyclotron Laboratory in Irving-on-Hudson, NY is the Radium Chemical Company, which is not among the companies listed in the Information Request.

To the best of our knowledge and information, at no time during the period 1945 to date has Columbia University directly, or through its licensed radioactive waste disposal broker, disposed of any radioactive waste, or sent any radioactive sources, to Safety Light Corp. in Bloomsburg, PA or to any of the other companies listed on the Information Request. Short-life isotopes, such as polonium beryllium (PoBe) which has a half-life of only 3-4 years, are and have been disposed of as non-radioactive waste once "cold."

2. No.
3. Not applicable.
4. No.
5. Not applicable.
6. We have no basis for believing that there are such persons.
7. We known of no other persons who have information or documents responsive to the Information Request.
8. We are not aware of any such other parties.
9. The University maintained all procurement and disposal documents for the periods prescribed by law. Once documents are no longer required to be maintained either by law or pursuant to an applicable University document retention policy, they are destroyed in the normal course, unless a particular individual or Department within the University sees fit to retain them.

There are no records of which we are aware that the University was obliged to maintain that are missing or were destroyed.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Hirsh", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David Hirsh  
Executive Vice President for Research

Called at 1:15 PM Harry Steinmetz 3/6/05

10/3/05

76

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